

HB854 Statewide Housing Study

Program Fact Sheet

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Department of Housing and Community Development

Note: This fact sheet was created in October 2021. Program details can change regularly. For the most up-to-date information on this program and a program contact, please visit the link below:
[Link to program website](#)

01 Program goals

The purpose of the weatherization assistance program is to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons.

The goal is to provide assistance through renewable energy systems or technologies, reducing their total residential expenditures, and improving their health and safety.

There is a special focus on low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with high energy burden.

02 Funding sources

The program is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

03 Governance

The Department of Energy (DOE) funds States and territories through a formula allocation. States then allocate funding to subgrantees according to a

formula. Federal regulations require that subgrantees be community action agencies (CAA) or other public or non-profit entities who meet capacity and experience requirements. Virginia currently has 17 subgrantees, all of which are CAAs or non-profit organizations.

04 Population served

The program serves low income households whose incomes (by household size) do not exceed 200% of Federal Poverty guidelines (DOE guidelines) or 60% of State median (LIHEAP guidelines*), whichever is greater. Priority is given to the elderly, families with children and the disabled. DOE allows the use of LIHEAP limits at the discretion of the State.

05 How program works

The state awards funding to subgrantees. The subgrantee handles application intake and approval. Once approved, an energy audit is performed by a licensed energy auditor to determine what conservation measures are necessary and meet the required savings to investment ratio. Work order is developed and measures are installed by agency crews or subcontractors with the required training for weatherization work. Work is inspected by a certified Quality Control Inspector. Subgrantee invoices DHCD for reimbursement.

06 Program history

The federal program began in 1976; DHCD assumed administration in 1991.

07 Program highlights

- Between program years 2016 through 2019, an average number of 1220 housing units have received assistance through the weatherization assistance program.
- In 2020, there was a decline to 369 units receiving assistance. This decline was due to safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for

in-person home visits to conduct weatherization projects.

- The average total job costs between 2016 and 2019 was \$4,930,315 with a decline to \$2,343,741 in 2020 - once again, a result of the impact of COVID-19 on in-person home rehabilitation.